

IF YOU FIND THIS WORLD BAD ...

Christian Waldvogel. *Peripheral Vision*

Hélène Meisel. Survey of the International Science Fiction Festival in Metz
& Jean-Jacques Dumont / Claire Morel

09 NOV 13 - 09 FEB 14

49 NORD 6 EST - FRAC LORRAINE, METZ



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ACCESS

Tuesday to Friday: 2-7pm
& Saturday & Sunday: 11am-7pm
The exhibition stays open on 12/25 and
12/26, and on 01/01.

Free admission

Group visits in English upon request
mediation@fraclorraine.org

Complete schedule of events is
available on our website :
www.fraclorraine.org

When imagination is harnessed in the service of science, the real, the possible, and the probable become blurred. When science meets fiction, it is imagination that takes the reins..

The International Science Fiction Festival, which turned Metz into a world hub of SF between 1976 and 1986, and which for many is still a vivid memory, is the subject of a survey conducted by art critic Hélène Meisel.

As a counterpoint, the exhibition *Peripheral Vision* by Swiss artist Christian Waldvogel tackles scientific riddles in order to playfully subvert concepts in astronomy and offer clues to understanding the Universe.

With the support of Pro Helvetia
And Matthew Reiter Collection, Zurich

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49 Nord 6 Est - FRAC Lorraine enjoys financial backing from the Lorraine
Regional Council and the Drac Lorraine at the Ministry of Culture and Communication
.....

1- *Une africaine dans l'espace*, 2007.
Film by Jean-Pierre Bekolo. © DR

PARISart www.paris-art.com



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Christian Waldvogel

Peripheral Vision

What if the West Pole were real?

What if one could momentarily escape the Earth's rotation?

What if the mystery of the mythical planet Antichthon were about to be solved?

What if the human species were to construct a new planet Earth from the old one, a gigantic structure capable of satisfying all our material and spiritual needs?

For the first major exhibition devoted to Christian Waldvogel by a French cultural institution, the artist will guide the visitor through five extensive projects completed between 2004 and 2013.

From scientific riddles to astronomical hypotheses, from cosmic mysteries to metaphysical doubts, he questions the world in which we live and which we think we know, by offering us clues to understanding the Universe. Although we know for a fact that the Earth is not the center of the Universe and that humans are but a species among many, we continue to behave as if everything revolved around us.

Understanding the world the way it is and not the way we want to see it: this is the quest of the artist and of those who wish to become global citizens. *Peripheral Vision* thus undertakes to dislocate our observation post from the Earth to the Outer Space, and to privilege the vision of what normally remains within the realm of fleeting impressions. This is a plunge into the real, the true, the possible, the probable...

Christian Waldvogel was born in Austin (US) in 1971. He lives and works in Zurich (CH). For his art projects, which bridge science and the arts, he frequently collaborates with professionals like mathematicians, architects, microbiologists, astronauts, pilots and physicists.

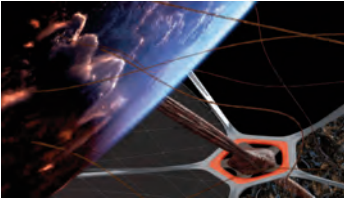
In 2004, he represented Switzerland at the 9th Venice Architecture Biennale and received the Gold medal "Best designed books from all over the world" for *Globus Cassus* edited on this occasion.

In 2011, his monograph *Earth Extremes* received the Bronze medal in the same competition. His work has been shown in lectures and exhibitions worldwide. He acts as a Co-chair in the European Space Agency's Topical Team Arts & Science (ETTAS).

He is represented by Herrmann Germann Contemporary, Zurich.

→ www.waldvogel.com

Christian Waldvogel
1- « Shooting Antichthon », 2012
2- « Antichthon, Model 1:750'000 », 2012.
Courtesy Private Collection, Zürich
3- « The Moluccas Cable (The voyage to Globus Cassus) », 2004
© Prolitteris



« Orbit Construction Site (The Voyage to Globus Cassus) » 2004
Edition 5 / 2 AP. C-Print in Diasec.
78.5 x 132 cm

WORKS

Globus Cassus 2004-2009

A thought experiment: building Earth's Antipode using the entire Earth as construction material. Humanity would live on the inside of this gigantic structure. No heavens for the gods, and maybe paradise for man?

West Pole 2005/2013

Having discovered that the western extreme is defined not by location alone, but by the concurrence of location and time, Waldvogel solved a riddle which is almost seven hundred years old. Travel is undertaken to reach this point.

The Earth turns without me 2009-2011

Every day, the Earth turns once around its own axis. In order to stand still, to not turn with the Earth, one has to travel westward - against the direction of rotation - at the rotational velocity. What C. Waldvogel did with the help of the Swiss Air Force, converting a supersonic aeroplane into a pinhole camera.

Flying westward, the artist documented the four-minute standstill by exposing orthochromatic (red-light insensitive) film to the Sun. Which didn't move.



« Looking towards the West Pole from the East (Temporal Proxy: Hong Kong) » 2006
Edition 7 / 2 AP.
Inkjet in Diasec with two color silk screen print.
79 x 57 cm



Briefing with the Swiss Air Force
& The supersonic aeroplane converting into a pinhole camera.



« Shooting Antichthon » 2012
Edition 3/1AP. video, loop 04:10,
customized digital picture frame.
19 x 28 x 3.5 cm

« Antichthon, Model 1:750'000 » 2012
unique. PU foam, gravel, shotgun ammunition,
plaster, acrylic, lava dust.
60 x 65 x 80 cm.
Courtesy Collection Matthew Reiter,
Zürich

Maybe the Non-Existence of Antichthon can be disproved 2009-2013

Around 500 B.C., the Pythagoreans were the first to argue that the Earth was not the center of the Universe. Their Universe was focused on a central fire, and Earth was balanced by an ideal, perfect Counter-Earth: Antichthon.

Today, Antichthon might be real once again. A receptacle for our wishes and perceptions of the ideal, it is waiting to stimulate our imagination, and yet we do not know if it exists.

Space from Space 2006/2013

Some things cannot be described unless seen by one's own eyes... Two astronauts assisted the artist, delivering graphic, linguistic and anecdotic aides which enabled him to produce a window into outer space.

«Dear Jim Voss, how does Space look from Space?»
N°1/2. Jet d'encre et sérigraphie. 1189 x 841 mm.
Signée et annotée par l'astronaute Jim Voss.

Pictures



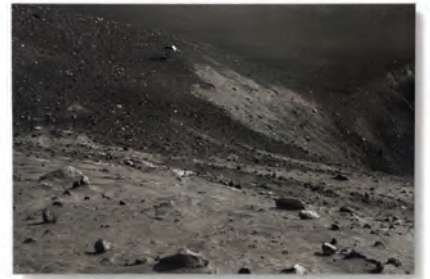
Antichthon_0022



Antichthon_0015



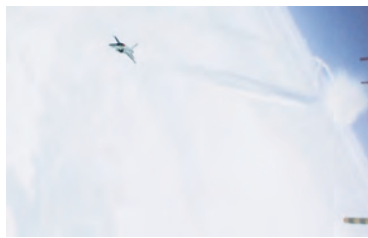
Antichthon_0017



Earth_0024



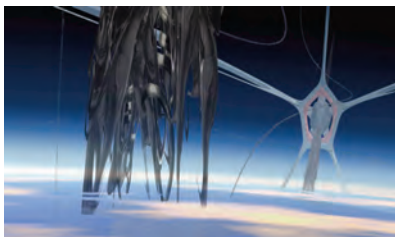
Earth_0005



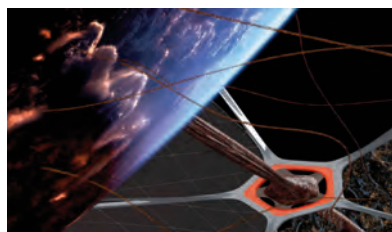
Earth_0004



Globus_0002



Globus_0003



Globus_0008



West_0026





1- Photos C. Legay



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HÉLÈNE MEISEL. SURVEY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION FESTIVAL IN METZ

For a decade, Metz became the world hub of SF. Between 1976 and 1986, Metz was, in fact, the setting of a Festival whose bold programming generated unexpected encounters and incredible experiences. International in scope, the event was, in the first place, a literary gathering, offering Anglo-Saxon and French authors a more unusual destination than the high masses normally reserved for the initiated.

This eclectic Festival insisted from the start on transdisciplinary, viral programming, touching the audience beyond book signings, screening rooms, concerts, or exhibitions.

How to tell this story which placed Metz at the heart of the realm of SF? The surprising results of the survey conducted by Hélène Meisel in collaboration with ESAL-Metz and the Bibliothèques-Médiathèques de Metz, give an overview of the immense cartography of SF which abounds with parallel worlds..

Born in 1986, Hélène Meisel lives in Metz. Art critic and historian of art, she was part of the 2011-2012 residency at the Pavillon of the Palais de Tokyo. She is a regular contributor to the magazine 20/27 (published by M19) and Volume: A Contemporary Journal about Sound.

JEAN-JACQUES DUMONT (2)

Appropriating the eye-catching, colourful imagery of the rare French sci-fi magazines and comic book covers of the 1960s, Jean-Jacques Dumont's "modified mags" are a nod toward the collective Western imagination of the collector. But the characters, which literally put down their roots in these mags, brandish wilfully enigmatic injunctions that playfully disrupt the naïveté of the original message.

Born in Vire, France, the year Philip K. Dick's The World Jones Made was published, Jean-Jacques Dumont is an artist working in the East of France. He elaborates projects which challenge systems of representation and communication through the use of hybrid techniques, from publishing to multifarm technologies.

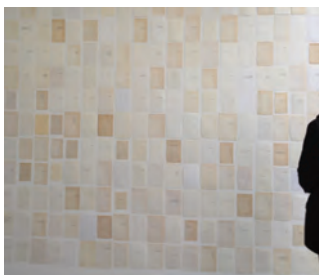
→ www.jeanjacques-dumont.org

CLAIRE MOREL (3)

Like a kind of library of Babel, the work created by Claire Morel is made up hundreds of printed dedications taken out from various books where they were placed by their authors. Are they part of the work or merely an annex? Does their value reside in what they say or in the trace of the author's real presence? This unique and potentially infinite collection suggests the magnitude and the diversity of the genre which, lauded or disparaged, rarely meets with indifference.

Born in 1980, Claire Morel lives and works in Mulhouse. Her career as an artist revolves around writing as a field for experimentation. The book is a space, an architecture, a surface occupied, transformed, and animated by writing or its absence.

→ www.clairemorel.net



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A small case of uchronia... If the International Science Fiction Festival had invited Ursula Le Guin or Octavia Butler, Metz would bask today in the favorable, and very topical, sunlight of cyberfeminism and afro-futurism. We are ready for lift-off in the direction of those planets where hybrid genres and genders are a sign of the future and where await us encounters with dissenting and liberating thinking.

NON-DIPLOMATIC MEETING

Thu Nov. 7 / 7PM / Cover charge
FRAC Lorraine, Metz

*Counter-fictions
of the contemporary body*

Beatriz Preciado, Queer philosopher and activist

By collating the questions of sex and gender with those of colonization, capitalism, and the pharmaceutical industry, Beatriz Preciado offers a brilliant and implacable insight into understanding the construction of the notion of gender.

GUIDED TOUR

Thu Jan. 23 / 8PM / Free admission
Médiathèque Verlaine, Metz

SF: a Story Fusion

Dominique Ribeyre, library curator
And other readers

"My first time..." When science-fiction literature gets hold of you, it never lets go! Come listen to SF lovers talk about the first books they read, and in the library reserves discover literary nuggets—classics and other unidentified meteorites!

CONCERT

Thu Dec. 5 / 8 PM / Cover charge
FRAC Lorraine, Metz

OCCAM OCEAN

Eliane Radigue, composer;
Deborah Walker, cello;
Julia Eckhardt, viola;
Silvia Tarozzi, violin.

The origin of this piece is a distant memory of *Occam's Razor* by David Duncan—a sci-fi story about the existence of a mythical ocean with multiple, vibrant waves...

For reservations email: info@fraclorraine.org

EVENING PERFORMANCE: Black to the future

Tue Dec. 10 / 7PM / Cover charge
FRAC Lorraine, Metz

PERFORMANCE

*Afrogalactica,
a brief history of the future I*
Kapwani Kiwanga, performer

It's the 2050s, and Kapwani Kiwanga examines the space conquest in which the Federation of the United States of Africa is taking part. Relying on pop-culture archives, she uses SF as an instrument for projecting possibilities. Come discover how Sun Ra, Parliament-Funkadelic, and other unlikely protagonists have influenced the course of history.

SCREENING - DISCUSSION

*Africa and Science-Fiction,
an expanding universe*
Oulimata Gueye, curator

In a multi-polar world where the West no longer has the monopoly over the idea of the future, is Africa going to use science fiction as a fertile source of invention to shape its own future and write stories to accompany it?

NON-DIPLOMATIC MEETING

Thu Jan. 30 / 7PM / Cover charge
FRAC Lorraine, Metz

*Humankind beyond genders and genres?
Queer and Science Fiction*

Géraldine Gourbe, philosopher

Using the salient figures of SF—from Frankenstein to the series *Real Humans*, by way of *Metropolis*—Géraldine Gourbe re-examines the origins of thought freed from the dictates of sexual assignment. Queer children born outside a biological matrix call for new forms of kinship that threaten the established order: Religion, State, and Family. Cloning, artificial uterus... when fiction helps to imagine reality.

FROM 30 JAN TO 02 FEB

Dress
Codes

"Every woman wishing to dress as a man must present herself at the police headquarters in order to obtain authorization." A hoax? Not at all, it's a French edict from 1800, repealed in 2013! The right to wear pants speaks volumes about gender as a work-in-progress... If clothes make neither the man nor the woman, what is there to differentiate between the masculine and the feminine?

Performances, meetings, Drag King workshop, concert ... Come to FRAC, the Arsenal, the Trinitaires, the Médiathèque Verlaine, and to the Centre Pompidou-Metz to enjoy out-of-this-world programming & plenty of cross-dressing.

For practical information and complete agenda visit:
www.fraclorraine.org

PARTNERS: Association Borromée, Couleurs gaies, Association des Étudiants Sénégalais de Metz, Association Fragment, Bibliothèques-Médiathèques de Metz, Centre Pompidou - Metz, École Supérieure d'Art de Lorraine - Metz & Epinal, École Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Nancy, Forum IRTS de Lorraine/Alforéas, Let's dyke!, Les Amis du Monde Diplomatique, Les Yeux de l'ouïe, EPCC Metz en scènes - L'Arsenal & Les Trinitaires, Université du temps libre - Université de Lorraine.

1- *Pumzi*, 2009. Film of Science Fiction realized by Wanuri Kahiu.
2- *Space is the Place*, 1972. Film of John Coney, wrote by Sun Ra.